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Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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F O R I M M E D I A T E R E L E A S E

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JOHN G. SHEDD AQUARIUM DESIGNATED A ECOSYSTEM LEARNING CENTER

COASTAL

CHICAGO (Oct. 28, 2004) — In a ceremony today, Coastal America designated Chicago's John G. Shedd Aquarium a Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center. This prestigious national designation was presented to the Aquarium by James L. Connaughton, chairman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality and chairman of Coastal America.

Coastal America is a partnership of 12 federal agencies, working to protect, preserve and restore America's coastal resources and watersheds. EPA, one of the partner agencies, leads the team supporting Shedd's Learning Center.

"I am delighted that Shedd Aquarium has joined the Coastal America partnership," said Connaughton. "Shedd provides a window into the depths of marine life around the world. By making us better students, Shedd's educational tools are making us better stewards of our oceans, coasts and Great Lakes."

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The Coastal America Learning Center network was established in 1996. Becoming a Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center offers many resources to Shedd Aquarium, including time aboard research vessels, expert speakers, educational publications and workshops for the public. Shedd is the 17th designated Learning Center, and the first on the Great Lakes.

“We are extremely pleased to receive this designation and to strengthen our federal partnerships while working to protect our national treasure – the Great Lakes,” said Shedd’s Chief Executive Officer Ted Beattie. “This comes at a perfect time because Shedd is increasing our own efforts to make the public aware of Great Lakes issues that touch their lives.” Beattie also serves as a member of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy.

To learn more about Coastal America, see www.coastalamerica.gov.

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